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OLLINGSWORTH WOOD

Feb. 20, 1935.

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,
Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Fortunately, I have not had to bother you these recent years with any matter affecting the activities of your agents in interfering with what we regard as the rights of citizens. But I hear of a few instances now which seem to me deserving of your attention.

It is reported from Birmingham on what I believe to be reliable authority that agents of the Department of Justice, cooperating with local officials in a drive on radicals, have followed persons taking mail out of a post office box, have displayed their badges, and then asserted they were acting unofficially in taking away from the recipient some printed matter. In addition they were reported as having kept persons from the showing of a film entitled "Gorki's Mother" by stationing themselves at the entrance and displaying their badges and cautioning persons trying to enter.

Whether these precise facts are accurate or not, there is apparently some activity by local agents in Birmingham which seems worth an inquiry by you on the ground that it is wholly outside the authority of federal agents.

Sincerely, yours,

Roger Baldwin

RM:TE

RECORDED & INDEXED

MAR 22 1935

47-13205-1

FEB 27 1935

"1. A person whose earning capacity is limited because of age, sex or physical condition, at a wage scale below maximum established by a Code if the employer obtains from the State authority, designated by the United States Department of Labor, a certificate authorizing such person's employment at such wages and for such hours as shall be stated in the certificate. Such authority shall be guided by the instructions of the United States Department of Labor in issuing the certificate to such person.

"2. Each employer shall file monthly with Code Authority a list of all such persons employed by him, showing the wages paid to, and the maximum hours of work for such employees.

It is deemed by the Authorities that you have violated the above Executive Order and Code in connection with your employee. You are hereby summoned to appear before said authorities within the next three days for the purpose of an investigation here.

Yours truly,
(signed) K. K. Fulsie.

In reply to the above letter, Mr. Williams addressed a letter, dated 2-26-35, to 408 Federal Building, Louisville, Ky., advising that he had not violated any provision of the code of Fair Competition and was not an employer in any respect and was at a loss to understand why the letter was addressed to him.

On February 28, 1935, Mr. Edward F. Seiller, Executive Assistant, National Recovery Administration, 415 Federal Building, Louisville, Ky., addressed a letter to Mr. Williams advising that the letter which he had received was not official and for him to disregard it altogether.

AT LEXINGTON, KY.

Agent discussed the facts of this case with Mr. Ray Swinford, United States Attorney, who advised that there was no violation of a Federal Statute and no investigation need be conducted at this time.

CLOSED.

CTINC

March 2, 1935.

47-10266-1
Special Agent in Charge,
Birmingham, Alabama.

RECORDED

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter addressed to me on February 26, 1935, by Mr. Roger M. Baldwin of the American Civil Liberties Union, Metropolis Building, 31 Union Square West, New York City, together with a copy of my reply.

No information is contained in the files of the Bureau concerning the matter to which Mr. Baldwin refers, but I should like to know whether you have any information in your possession concerning these alleged acts of misconduct. It is quite possible that individuals have been guilty of impersonating representatives of this Bureau and, if you have any information in the matter, I should like to have you forward it to me by return mail.

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure #321/22

SPECIAL DELIVERY

1 copy

P. O. Box 314,
Birmingham, Alabama
January 15, 1935

Mr. Jim Mallory,
P. O. Box 572,
Birmingham, Ala.,

Dear Mr. Mallory:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter
of January 13, 1935.

This is to advise you that this office is desirous
of interviewing you concerning a violation of the White
Slave Traffic Act on the part of an individual whom it is
believed is known to you. Inasmuch as you were not listed
in the usual sources of information, a letter was directed to
you requesting that you call at this office. This letter was
sent to you on December 13, 1934. No reply was received from
you until your letter of January 13th was received today. In
view of its contents it is realized that you do not desire to
assist this Division for which reason no further efforts will
be made to contact you.

Yours truly,

J. H. HANSON
Special Agent in Charge.

JHH
SI-3086

C O P Y

I. O. Box 314,
Birmingham, Alabama
w/ December 10, 1974

Mr. Jim Mallory,
P. O. Box 572,
Birmingham, Alabama.

Dear Mr. Mallory:

We have information that you may be able to
provide us some assistance in conducting an official in-
vestigation and we would greatly appreciate it if you
would drop by this office, Room 201, Federal Building,
at your earliest convenience.

Very truly yours,

J. H. McCOMB
Special Agent in Charge.

JHM:JAL
SI-1086

CAP

13 January 1935

Department of Justice,
Post Office Building
Birmingham, Alabama.

Sir:

We understand that you wish to contact the editor of the Southern Worker, through so that we have no legitimate business with it, for you wish us.

In your apparent anxiety to do this, by any means, we also understand that you have recommended a man who was asked by one of our workers to pick up mail for him, so that he could later get it to Mr. Gallery.

Because of the fascist-like activities of the Ku Klux Klan, White Legion and other hooded or secret bands, which have recent activities on your part seem to closely resemble, we have made a practice of having persons who gave our mail watched by another person, usually, as in this case, unknown even to the person getting the mail.

We have experienced the obvious collaboration of the local governments to the wishes of the trusts, banks and industrial interests, and now the apparent direct cooperation of Federal Government forces with Tennessee Coal, Iron & Railroad Company private police, and others, will certainly be illuminating to the masses of the people throughout the nation, as a limit on the "New Deal".

Firstly we should like to emphatically request that you immediately cease your attempted interference with the United States mail, and with the orderly publication of the only militant, workers' newspaper in the South. In fact, we are bringing these illegal and anti-constitutional actions on your part to the attention of national organizations, as well as our attorneys, for proper action.

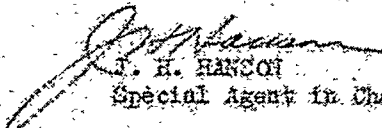
That you will not reach the responsible editor of the Southern Worker by further persecution of an innocent worker who did nothing for one of our workers, and played up our mail a few times as a favor to him, you probably already know. We are sure that any legitimate business you might wish with us can be stated in a letter, and does not necessitate a person of seeing, at this time, what we would rather not grant.

Sincerely,
J.M.
Tim Gallery

CC:J

It is my intention to make an inquiry of the police officers in Birmingham for the purpose of determining if any Federal agents have co-operated with them in a drive on radicals, and to learn if any information has ever come to them that anyone claiming to be a Department of Justice agent has conducted investigations in such activities. I will advise you of this at the very first opportunity.

Very truly yours,


J. H. RANSOM
Special Agent in Charge

JHR:JAS

To my knowledge, I know of no reason why any organization interested in civil liberties could say that this Bureau had engaged in anti-Communist activities.

The only case I know of that has been handled in the Birmingham office since I have been here that related in any manner to communists, is the case entitled JACK GALKER, with alias, Fride Smith - Victim; Dora Cummings - Victim, WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT - DISPERCUATION.

In this case, the report of Special Agent Roswell E. Smith, Jacksonville, Florida, dated 12-5-34, set out a lead for the Birmingham office to ascertain who was the renter of P. O. Box 522 in Birmingham, with the view to locating that party for information as to the subject in the above mentioned case. As a result of an inquiry made by the Birmingham office, as will be noted in the report of Special Agent J. C. Brenner, Birmingham, Alabama, dated 12-26-34, it developed that this box was rented by one Jim Mallory, who represented himself as being the editor of the Southern Worker. Efforts to locate Mallory, as will be noted from this report, were unsuccessful, with the result that a letter was sent to him in accordance with my instructions, this letter being dated December 13, 1934, three copies of which are attached hereto. Mallory failed to respond to this letter and the Birmingham office conducted further inquiry with the view to locating him, as will be noted in the report of Special Agent J. A. Robey, Birmingham, Alabama, dated 2-27-35. It will be noted from this report that Special Agent Robey contacted two colored people, namely, Arthur Anderson, and Annie Lomax, who voluntarily consented to be interviewed as is mentioned in this report, and Special Agent Robey has advised me that he made no threats against them, but that they cooperated willingly, and that at no time did he interfere with the mail that either of those persons might have secured. As is mentioned in the Report of Special Agent Robey, a letter was received in the Birmingham office on January 15th, from Jim Mallory, representing himself to be connected with the Southern Worker, three copies of which letter are attached hereto, and in which letter, you will note that Mallory claims that this Bureau was interfering with his mail.

Immediately upon receipt of this letter a reply was sent to him under date of January 15, 1935, three copies of which are attached hereto for your information. No other word has been received from Mr. Mallory.

I am reciting the above facts to you, thinking that possibly Mallory had appealed to Mr. Baldwin, giving the latter gentleman a perverted view of the facts in this case, yet Mr. Baldwin does not refer to such a matter but indicates that persons claiming to be agents of the Department of Justice were cooperating with local authorities in a drive on radicals, following persons, taking letters from post office boxes, displaying badges, and attempting to keep persons from the showing of a certain moving picture.

RECEIVED
SPECIAL DELIVERY

Division of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice
P. O. Box 314,
Birmingham, Alabama
March 2, 1935

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
U. S. Department of Justice,
Pennsylvania Avenue at 9th St. N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of March 2, 1935, inclosing a communication addressed to you on February 26th last, from Mr. Roger W. Baldwin, of the American Civil Liberties Union, New York City, concerning alleged interfering on the part of Special Agents of this Bureau in communistic matters.

This is to advise that I at no time have received any complaints that anyone representing the Federal Bureau of Investigation, or the Department of Justice, is alleged to have worked with local authorities in investigating communistic activities, or in joining a "Drive on Radicals".

I fully realize that this Bureau has no investigative jurisdiction over activities of this kind, and while I might mention that practically every day someone volunteers information concerning communists in this vicinity, I have always advised such parties that the Federal Bureau of Investigation has no jurisdiction over such matters and that I did not know of any Federal Agency that did. Only today, a newspaper man, who has called at this office frequently since the offices have been located in the present quarters, inquired of me whether this Bureau was taking a part in such investigations. He has made similar inquiries before and I have always advised him to the contrary. He stated that he knew that the United States Secret Service was conducting such investigations, and that they did it on the theory that they were guarding the life of the President. I informed him today, that I could not understand why he was making such inquiry when I had previously told him we had no jurisdiction over such matters. He stated that his reason for making such inquiry was that when he was at the Police Department yesterday, he overheard the Chief of Detectives state that the Government was looking for a certain individual who was a communist. He said that he assumed that it was the Federal Bureau of Investigation that was looking for this man, which was the reason he was making the inquiry.

I might also mention that I made inquiry of all the Agents who were in Birmingham today, and they all informed me that they at no time had been with any local law enforcement officers when the latter gentlemen might have been working on a case involving communists. Neither myself nor any of these Agents had ever heard of the film entitled "Corki's Mother" which is mentioned in the letter of Mr. Baldwin to you.

RECORDED & INDEXED

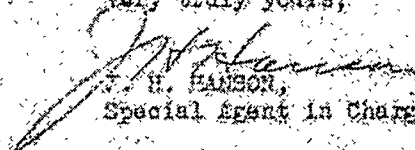
MAR 25 1935

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MAR 25 1935
MAR 25 1935
MAR 25 1935

vestigation in connection with the communistic inquiry. The Chief stated that he would not be surprised if Bayol is not still assisting Hoff, and that possibly Bayol is the person who has represented himself as being a Department of Justice Agent, and who has perhaps been guilty of some of the acts described to you by Mr. Baldwin.

I am forwarding the above to you in this form, thinking that you would like to know about this, and I am also continuing the inquiry in Birmingham with a view to ascertaining if Bayol or any other Federal agents have worked on communistic investigations. I might also mention that Chief Hollins stated that to his knowledge he does not know of any Federal agents who have ever worked with his officers on communistic inquiries.

Very truly yours,


J. H. HANSON,
Special Agent in Charge.

AIRMAIL
SPECIAL DELIVERY

Division of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

JHM:EM
62-954

Post Office Box 314,
Birmingham, Alabama,
March 7, 1935.

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
U. S. Department of Justice,
Pennsylvania Ave. at 9th St., N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to my letter of March 6, 1935, concerning the communication addressed to you on February 26th last by Mr. Roger M. Baldwin of the American Civil Liberties Union, concerning alleged interfering on the part of Special Agents of this Bureau in communistic matters.

This is to advise that today, when talking to Chief of Police Luther Hollums in Birmingham, Alabama, he advised me that there had never come to his attention any information indicating that any Federal agents had been assisting the local law enforcement officers in conducting communistic investigations. The Chief stated that up until a few months ago two of his officers, namely Detectives Kozier and Cole, were assigned to handle such investigations, but that they had been taken off of this work. The Chief stated also that Mr. Milton McDuff, now a private detective in Birmingham, who, as you know, is the son of the former Chief of Police in Birmingham, having been the superintendent of the Identification Bureau at the time his father was the Chief of Police, had been retained by the Tennessee, Coal, Iron and Railroad Company, which is the largest steel plant operating in the Birmingham vicinity, and which is a subsidiary of the United States Steel Corporation; that McDuff as a private detective investigated a number of bombing cases that occurred in Birmingham in connection with labor difficulties, and that, according to Chief Hollums, he understood that the T.C.I. Co. had also retained Milton McDuff to investigate communistic activities. The Chief stated that he found out that his two officers, Kozier and Cole, were supplying McDuff with considerable data as a result of their investigation, and that McDuff in turn transmitted this information to the T.C.I. Co. as having been gathered by himself.

RECORDED & INDEXED

The Chief also stated that there was employed by Milton McDuff, in his private detective agency, a man named Bayol, who at the present time is employed by the Alcoholic Tax Unit of the Treasury Department; that Bayol worked with McDuff considerably and undoubtedly conducted some in-

MAR 25 1935

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

METROPOLIS BUILDING, 31 UNION SQUARE WEST, NEW YORK CITY . . . *Telephone Square 6-4330*

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*Attorneys and Correspondents
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DELAUNA HILLY SILVER
H. F. SINCLAIR
PROF. CLARENCE A. KINZER
ERMAN M. THOMAS
WALD D. THIMMANN
LIEE M. THUMMILL
WALD GARRISON WILLARD
CHARNEY VLADICK
ORCE P. WEST
PER WITT
HOLINGWORTH WOOD

March 6, 1935.

Mr. John Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Your letter of March 2nd addressed to
Mr. Baldwin is received in his absence. I have
forwarded it to him on his trip in the South
so that he can send you the further information
you request.

Sincerely yours,

Lucille B. Milner

Secretary.

LBM:RW

(Signed in Mrs. Milner's absence)

RECORDED

MAR 25 1935

47-302-4-4
MAR 14 1935
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
RECEIVED
MAR 14 1935
MAR 14 1935
MAR 14 1935

did not work on any communist investigations. Koser also stated that he did not know where the picture entitled "Gorki's Mother" had been shown in Birmingham.

Mr. G. R. Sims, Chief Police Officer of the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company, which organization, as I have mentioned before, is a subsidiary of the United States Steel and which is the largest steel enterprise in this area, employing a large number of special police officers, informed me that neither he nor his officers are conducting any active investigations in connection with communist matters. He stated that from time to time information is furnished to him and his department, but that for the past year no active investigations have been conducted, and that to his knowledge no Special Agent of this Bureau, nor any Federal representative has engaged in such investigations. He mentioned, however, that he had heard that some of the industrial leaders in Birmingham were interested in communism, and he thought that possibly Milton McDuff had been retained by these people to secure certain data. He stated, however, that he knows nothing of the efforts exerted by McDuff in this connection.

I inquired of Mr. Sims whether he knew a Jim Mallory, reported to be a communist in Birmingham, which party I mentioned to you in my letter of March 6th. Mr. Sims stated that the information that has been furnished to him is to the effect that the party representing himself as Jim Mallory, and who is editor of one of the communist papers, is a woman who also is known as Elizabeth Jennings and who has also used the name of Jim Allen. He mentioned that his most recent information is that this woman is no longer in Birmingham, further that the newspaper with which she is connected is published in Rossville, Georgia, just across the city limits from Chattanooga, Tennessee. Mr. Sims also mentioned that he had never heard of the showing of the film in Birmingham entitled "Gorki's Mother".

It seems to me that the complaint that has been made to you is so indefinite that if further inquiry is made it will result in the possibility of spreading information to the effect that this Bureau is engaged in such investigations. I could, however, speak to Milton McDuff about this matter, but knowing him I doubt very much if he would admit that anybody in his employ or working with him ever engaged in such investigations and had represented themselves to be Department of Justice Agents.

Very truly yours,

J. H. HILSON,
Special Agent in Charge.

Division of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Postoffice Box 314,
Birmingham, Alabama,
March 11, 1935.

JSH:T
62-964

VIA AIR MAIL

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation, RECORDED
U. S. Department of Justice,
Pennsylvania Avenue at 9th St.,
Washington, D. C. MAR 20 1935

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to my letter of March 7, 1935, concerning a communication addressed to you on February 26th last by Mr. Moser of the American Civil Liberties Union, concerning alleged interfering on the part of Special Agents of this Bureau in communistic matters.

This is to advise that I talked to Detective J. E. Moser of the Birmingham Police Department, who is one of the officers who, as I have indicated before, was engaged in anti-communistic work in behalf of the Birmingham Police Department. Detective Moser informed me that he did not know of any Special Agent of this Bureau or of any Federal Agent who had ever worked with the local law enforcement officers in connection with anti-communistic work, or who had ever on their own accord engaged in such work. He stated that from time to time he has furnished information to officers of the Military and Naval Departments who have made inquiry concerning communists in this area, inasmuch as they have been interested in such persons in connection with possible sabotage cases involving the fabrication of steel in this area on Government contracts. He stated, however, that he knows of no instances where such representatives of the U. S. Government have made any other inquiries or conducted any other investigative work.

Mr. Moser also mentioned that his former partner in this investigative work was former Detective Paul Cole, who has retired from the Police Department and who is now in the employ of Milton McDuff, a private detective in Birmingham. He also stated that he understood that Milton McDuff had been making some inquiries in connection with the communists in behalf of some of the industries located in this area. Detective Moser also mentioned that Mr. Exyol, who is now a prohibition agent, formerly worked for Milton McDuff in the capacity of a private detective, but as far as he knows Exyol



NATIONAL RECOVERY ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C.

May 4, 1934

IN REPLY REFER TO _____

Dear Peter

Thanks for your letter of April 15 with enclosures. I have been in Washington since the latter part of March. I was with Miss Eleanor Darrow on of March. I was to help Eleanor Darrow on National Recovery Review Board. Almost immediately offered me of the higher up legal positions in NRA and accepted, with Darrow's approval. Family still in Memphis; will probably come here this summer.

I am legal adviser on the Labor Policy Board of NRA. We have six members: L.C. Marshall of Columbia University (chairman), Sidney Hillman from the Labor Group, Shoults from the Consumers Group, Dahlberg from Research & Planning, Dorley of Standard Oil from the Industrial Group, and myself from the Legal Group. Before I am through, I hope to turn the country over to the workers, you need not fear that office will suffer me. I expect to try to advance the interest of labor as far as possible under our present system. If most reasonable to be done, you fellows can do it.

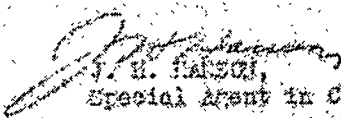
(myself)

Heard, was to be away from the over-throwing domination of a corrupt political machine. South of I should ever engage in private business again. If my friends office is under government, what shall I do?

~~-----~~ Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company is not taking an active part in investigation of communistic or other radical matters by means of its own men, but I believe that perhaps the Chief National Detective Agency in Birmingham is making these inquiries for them and that they are the people who located the papers mentioned in this letter.

I will make no further inquiry in connection with this matter unless advised by you to do so.

Very truly yours,


J. B. Folsom,
Special Agent in Charge.

Encl.

Division of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Postoffice Box 514,
Birmingham, Alabama,
March 21, 1935.

RE: T

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
U. S. Department of Justice,
Pennsylvania Avenue at 9th St., N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to my letter of March 11, 1935, referring to mine of March 7th, concerning a communication addressed to you on February 25th last by Mr. Roger W. Caldwell concerning alleged interfering on the part of Special Agents of this Bureau in communistic matters.

This is to advise that Mr. C. R. Sims, Chief Police Officer of the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company, who was mentioned in my letter of March 11th, telephoned me yesterday requesting that I call to see him. At that time Mr. Sims informed me that he had secured certain documents as a result of a raid that had been made on the headquarters of some organization for the Communists. Mr. Sims stated that there were several people arrested at that time, one of them being Elmer Owen, alias Peter Caldwell, alias Boris Israel, alias Pete Caldwell, who, Sims stated, is the Secretary for District No. 13 of the Internal Labor Defense, Postoffice Box 604, Birmingham, Alabama, which organization is reported to have headquarters in Room 514 Federated Bank Building in Birmingham. Sims stated that at the time of Owen's arrest, mentioning also that Owen is generally known as Peter Caldwell, there was found among his effects a carbon copy of the letter sent to the Birmingham office on January 13, 1935 signed by Jim Mallory, a copy of which letter was sent to you with my letter of March 5, 1935.

There was also found among Owen's papers a letter written by Robert C. Knebler, The Chastleton, 10th and S. Streets, N. W., Washington, D. C., which letter is addressed to "Dear Peter", who evidently is Peter Caldwell, and which letter indicates that Knebler, who represents himself as being a legal adviser on the Labor Policy Board of the U. S. A. is a very close acquaintance of Caldwell's. Mr. Sims furnished me with a photostatic copy of this letter, and I am attaching it hereto for your information.

RECORDED & INDEXED

Mr. Sims stated that Caldwell was not arrested by his officers, but he did not indicate who had arrested Caldwell, and I do not believe it wise to ask him. It is my opinion that this

1935

Name: Stanley

11/11/35 LWA

EX-100 97

LSB:ESG
47-10206

April 3, 1935.

MEMORANDUM

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
MR. WILLIAM STAGLEY

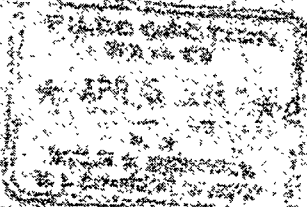
On March 20, 1935 the Birmingham Office of this Bureau was informed by Mr. W. H. Sims, Chief Police Officer of the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company, that in a raid on the headquarters of some organization for the Communist, Elaine Green, alias Peter Caldwell, alias Davis Israel, alias Peter Caldwell, was arrested, and among his effects was found a letter, dated May 4, 1934, addressed to "Doc Peter" and signed "Robert E. Keabler". According to this letter, Robert E. Keabler states he is in legal trouble on the Labor Policy Board of the National Recovery Administration. A photostatic copy of this letter was left with the Birmingham Office by Mr. Sims and I am forwarding to you with this memorandum a photostatic copy of it for your confidential information.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director.

Inclosure 301614.

1 yellow



Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

April 6, 1935

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: Allegation of Roger H. Baldwin that
Bureau Agents participated in a raid
conducted in Birmingham, Alabama upon
premises utilized by radicals of that
city.

Mr. McGrath of the Department called me with reference to the memorandum addressed to Mr. Stanley on April 3, concerning Robert S. Kessler, a member of the Labor Policy Board of the National Recovery Administration. Mr. McGrath stated that a photostatic copy of the letter written by Kessler had been transmitted to Mr. Hinchberg of the National Recovery Administration and that they regarded this as "very hot stuff". Mr. McGrath stated that the National Recovery Administration wanted to be governed by the Department's judgment as to whether Kessler should be immediately dismissed from the National Recovery Administration or whether he should be placed under surveillance. I told McGrath that this did not appear to be a matter in which this Bureau should be expected to suggest any action, since when it was brought to the attention of the National Recovery Administration it became an administrative problem in their own organization to be dealt with as they saw fit. I pointed out that the Bureau was not conducting any investigation of communistic or radical activities and accordingly we had no further interest in this particular situation. I pointed out to Mr. McGrath that as indicated in our memorandum to Mr. Stanley, this letter had come into our possession from an outside source and that we had no usual procedure in such cases, brought the matter to the attention of the Department for whatever action they deemed appropriate. I informed him that any action which the National Recovery Administration took in this matter would not in any way jeopardize or retard any investigation being conducted by this Bureau.

For your information, the letter of Mr. Kessler referred to above was turned over to the Bureau by R. A. Sims, a police officer of the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company, having been obtained by him as a result of a raid conducted on the headquarters of a radical organization, during which time Peter Caldwell, with aliases was arrested and this letter was found in his possession. The letter bearing Kessler's signature was addressed "Dear Peter".

Respectfully,

RECORDED

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R. A. Sims

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TWO

CRIME

March 2, 1935.

RECORDED

47-102-6-1

Mr. Roger E. Baldwin,
American Civil Liberties Union,
McDonnell Building,
21 Union Square West,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Baldwin:

I have received your letter of February 26, concerning information of various alleged acts of misconduct on the part of Special Agents of this Bureau in the vicinity of Birmingham, Alabama.

Please be advised that a thorough check of the files of this service fails to disclose any information pertaining to the matters to which you refer, and, since reports of all investigative activity on the part of representatives of this Bureau are made to Washington, it would appear that there is no basis for the charges in question. However, I should appreciate receiving further details of these matters from you, since it is possible that someone may have been impersonating an officer of this Bureau.

If you will supply me with further information, I shall be glad to secure the facts and to take appropriate action in the matter.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

cc-BAS, Birmingham (with letter)

2 copies

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